

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 25128 310359Z
ACTION XMB-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 OIC-02 TRSE-00 OPIC-03
/028 W

-----037020 010055Z /64

R 310357Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0275

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E.O. 11652:NA
TAGS: EINV
SUBJ: EXIM BANK AND OPIC MISSIONS TO ASEAN NATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 208579 (B) STATE 208113

1. AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED EXIM CHAIRMAN MOORE'S VISIT AND THE OPIC MISSION LED BY CHARLES ROBINSON TO ASEAN COUNTRIES IN NOVEMBER WITH MINISTER ATTACHED TO PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE BOARD OF INVESTMENT SOMPORN PUNYAGUPTA AUGUST 28. AMBASSADOR STRESSED PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THESE VISITS AS DEMONSTRATION US INTEREST IN EXPANDING INVESTMENT COOPERATION WITH ASEAN AND VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TRIPS PROVIDE FOR THAILAND AND OTHER ASEAN NATIONS TO PRESENT SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND GARNER FAVORABLE PUBLICITY IN US.

2. MINISTER SOMPORN DECLARED RTG WAS ENTHUSIASTIC AND FULLY APPRECIATED OPPORTUNITY MISSIONS OFFERED. RTG WAS DISTURBED BY LOW LEVEL OF INVESTMENT IN NEW INVESTMENT AND DISTRESSED BY EVIDENCE US AND EUROPEAN COMPANIES REMAIN SKEPTICAL OF LONG TERM STABILITY IN THAILAND. IN HIS VIEW CONDITIONS HAVE CHANGED DRAMATICALLY OVER PAST THREE YEARS. THAILAND IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STABLE AND AFFORDS MANY ATTRACTIVE AND SOLID INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES. MINISTER SOMPORN ASSURED AMBASSADOR RTG, FROM PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK ON DOWN, WOULD COOPERATE TO ASSURE SUCCESS OF MISSIONS.

3. OVER NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS EMBASSY WILL BE MEETING WITH SOMPORN, AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THAI

BUSINESS GROUPS TO REFINE SCHEDULES. IN THIS REGARD IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE RECEIVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE NAMES AND INTERESTS OF INDIVIDUAL OPIC MISSION PARTICIPANTS SO WE CAN MATCH-UP INDIVIDUAL APPOINTMENTS WITH THAI COUNTERPARTS.

4. EMBASSY AGREES OVERLAP IN EX-IM AND OPIC MISSIONS TO THAILAND IS COMPLIMENTARY AND PROVIDES DOUBLE-BARRELED DEMONSTRATION OF US INTEREST IN PROMOTING EXPANDED INVESTMENT, AS WELL AS TRADE. BECAUSE BANGKOK VISIT COMES NEAR END OF TOUR, AMBASSADOR BELIEVES BOTH MOORE AND ROBINSON SHOULD CONSIDER GIVING SPEECHES HERE FOCUSED ON THEIR IMPRESSIONS OF OPPORTUNITIES AND PROBLEMS IN REGION AS A WHOLE. SUGGEST LUNCHEON ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10 AFFORDS APPROPRIATE PLATFORM FOR JOINT REMARKS BEFORE PRESTIGIOUS AUDIENCE. EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE WOULD BE ARRANGED. AMBASSADOR WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF CHAIRMAN MOORE AND CHUCK ROBINSON WOULD DISCUSS A COOPERATIVE EFFORT OF THIS TYPE.

5. WHILE WE ENVISAGE MOORE PARTICIPATING IN SOME PORTIONS OF OPIC PROGRAM AND THE LUNCH, WE PLAN TO DESIGN A SEPARATE SERIES OF APPOINTMENTS FOR CHAIRMAN MOORE TAILORED TO DISCUSSIONS WITH EXISTING AND POTENTIAL EX-IM CUSTOMERS.

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6. WE WILL BE REPORTING FURTHER FOLLOWING MEETINGS WITH RTG, AMERICAN AND THAI BUSINESS GROUPS. EMBASSY CONSIDERS MISSIONS TIMELY AND OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITY. ABRAMOWITZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BANKS, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BANGKO25128
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780356-0915
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978081/aaaaaook.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 15ae8457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION XMB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 208579, 78 STATE 208113
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1536630
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXIM BANK AND OPIC MISSIONS TO ASEAN NATIONS
TAGS: EINV, EFIN, TH, OPIC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/15ae8457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014